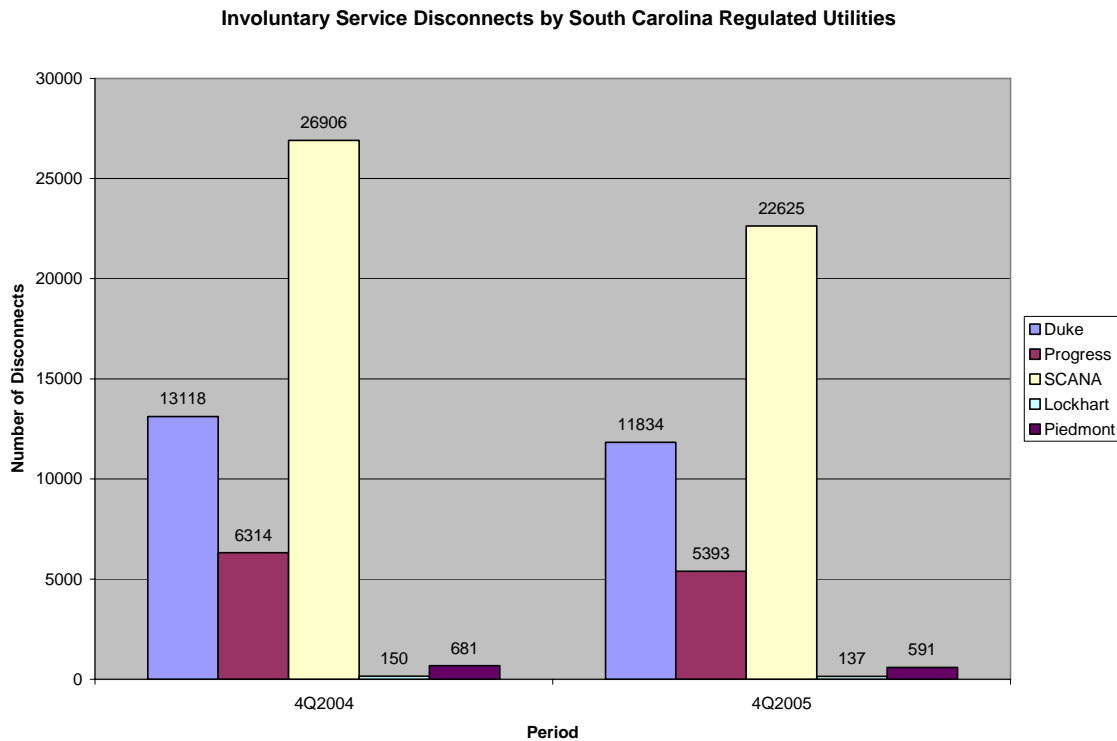


South Carolina Regulated Utilities Involuntary Service Disconnects 4th Quarter 2004 vs. 4th Quarter 2005



The number of involuntary disconnects for all four South Carolina regulated electric companies dropped in the fourth quarter 2005 when compared to the fourth quarter 2004. The reporting utilities included Duke Power Company, Lockhart Power Company, Progress Energy Carolinas and SCE&G. The same trend was experienced by Piedmont Natural Gas Company. Please note that data for SCE&G combines involuntary disconnects for gas-only, electric-only and combined gas and electric service customers.

All reporting utilities adhere to a set of internal procedures before disconnecting electric or natural gas service during periods of extremely cold or extremely hot weather. The non-pay disconnect policies and programs of the utilities are similar, and all appear to conform to applicable South Carolina Rules and Regulations --- 103-352 Procedures for Termination of Service (Electric), and 103-452 Procedures for Termination of Service (Gas).

Please note that non-payment is not the only reason for involuntary disconnects. Other reasons include: non-fulfillment of a deferred payment agreement; fraud; tampering with a meter; and, safety concerns.